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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/052,185	01/18/2002	Sander Palvoelgyi	19361-089285	1155
28886	7590	12/05/2003	EXAMINER	
CLARK HILL, P.C. 500 WOODWARD AVENUE, SUITE 3500 DETROIT, MI 48226			SMALLEY, JAMES N	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3727	8
DATE MAILED: 12/05/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/052,185

Applicant(s)

PALVOELGYI ET AL.

Examiner

James N Smalley

Art Unit

3727

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 3727

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Due to the new grounds of rejection, and the withdraw of indication of allowable subject matter, this action is **Non-Final**.

Priority

2. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on application GM 044/2001 filed in Austria on 19 January 2001. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the foreign application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 7, 9-10 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wildfeuer US 5,074,428.

Wildfeuer discloses a closure for blow-molded barrels, teaching first and second spaced apart radial grooves that are fit with first and second sealing rings (13). The reinforcement member is neck (3), having inner and outer vertical surfaces, and which projects inward at its base.

The area located just underneath the annular web (8) functions as the sealing gap.
Reinforcement member is solid border (12).

5. Claims 1, 7 and 10 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by De Pew et al. US 3,343,707.

Art Unit: 3727

De Pew '707 teaches a closure for fuel tanks, having an inwardly projecting lip (48), and first and second sealing surface. Grooves in the second sealing surface, along the cap, contain first (30) and second (34) sealing rings. An unlabeled sealing gap is formed between the rings.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 2-6, 8-9 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over De Pew et al. US 3,343,707 in view of Behringer US 1,459,903.

De Pew '707 does not teach a reinforcement member to support the lip.

Limitations in Behringer '903

Behringer '903 discloses a bung neck wherein a threaded flange (3) serves to reinforce the bung opening. Although the reinforcing member (3) carries the threads for the bung opening, one having ordinary skill would recognize the flange acts as a standard reinforcing collar around the bung opening defined by the bung top wall (1), and could be added to any opening to serve as a reinforcement.

Obvious Inventive Step

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the structure of De Pew '707, adding a reinforcing collar, such as the flange (3) disclosed by Behringer '903, so as to obtain the benefit of reinforcing the fuel neck opening.

Examiner further asserts that it is extremely well known and within ordinary skill to reinforce any structure under loading stresses. One having ordinary skill could easily add a truss to reinforce the flange (48) of De Pew '707, and would be motivated to do so in order to prevent inward or outward deformation of the fuel tank opening.

Art Unit: 3727

Further regarding De Pew '707, the sealing surfaces extend parallel and conically inward to the tank opening. The first and second grooves extend radially around the circumference of the lid.

Regarding claim 6, De Pew '707 discloses the claimed invention except that the inward flange of the wall is engaged by an outwardly flanged collar (52) instead of a reinforcing element engaging the collar. De Pew '707 shows that engaging any inward flange is an equivalent structure known in the art. Therefore, because these two ways of engaging an inward flange by a lid collar were art-recognized equivalents at the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to substitute the lid engaging a reinforcing flange for a lid that engages the end wall flange.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

US 6,519,964	US 4,699,292
US 5,746,359	US 4,027,777
US 5,709,313	US 3,401,647
US 5,071,140	US 2,316,507
US 5,036,996	US 2,209,081

Telephone inquiries regarding the status of applications or other general questions, by persons entitled to the information, "should be directed to the group clerical personnel and not to the examiners. In as much as the official records and applications are located in the clerical section of the examining

Art Unit: 3727

groups, the clerical personnel can readily provide status information without contacting the examiners", M.P.E.P. 203.08. The Group clerical receptionist number is (703) 306-1148.

If in receiving this Office Action it is apparent to applicant that certain documents are missing, e.g., copies of references cited, form PTO-1449, form PTO-892, etc., requests for copies of such papers or other general questions should be directed to Tech Center 3700 Customer Service at (703) 308-5648, email CustomerService3700@uspto.gov.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James N Smalley whose telephone number is (703) 605-4670. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8-5:30, Alternate Fri 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lee Young can be reached on (703) 308-2572. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-872-9306 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

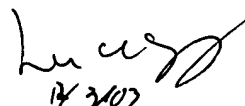
Other helpful telephone numbers are listed for applicant's benefit.

Allowed Files & Publication	(703) 305-8322
Assignment Branch	(703) 308-9287
Certificates of Correction	(703) 305-8309
Drawing Corrections/Draftsman	(703) 305-8404/8335
Fee Increase Questions	(703) 305-5125
Intellectual Property Questions	(703) 305-8217
Petitions/Special Programs	(703) 305-9282
Terminal Disclaimers	(703) 305-8408

If the information desired is not provided above, or has been changed, please do not call the examiner (this is the latest information provided to him) but the general information help line below.

Information Help line	1-800-786-9199
Internet PTO-Home Page	http://www.uspto.gov/

jns
December 2, 2003


12/2/03
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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700